Statement-III

Number of beneficiaries benefited during last 3 years

Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2003-04	72,000
2004-05	27,790
2005-06 (till 30 November, 2005	2,040

Teaching of Environment, Population Control and Yoga

1223. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to teach environment, population control, Yoga, etc. to students in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Rs. 115 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose;

(d) if so, whether it would be sufficient to meet the expenses; and

(e) if not, how it is proposed to be managed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The elements of Environment and Population Control have been an integral part of school curriculum. Yoga has been a component of Health and Physical Education that has been a compulsory subject from primary to secondary stages and an optional subject at the higher secondary stage.

(c) to (e) A coposite scheme of "Quality Improvement is Schools", which is not directly related to School Curriculum, has been recently approved, with a Tenth Plan allocation of Rs. 115.000 crore, clubbing the following existing schemes:—

(i) Improvement of Science Education in Schools;

(ii) Environmental Orientation to School Education;

(iii) National Population Education Project;

(iv) Introduction of Yoga in Schools; and

(v) International Science Olympiad in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Informatics.

Under the Schemes mentioned at (ii), (iii) and (iv) above, financial assistance is normally provided to certain agencies, including Non Governmental Organizations, for specific activities in the relevant fields, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed for such schemes.

Open Universities

1224. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of open universities as on date location-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to open some more open universities in various States to encourage distant education particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the curriculum finalized for such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) There are 14 Open Universities in the country. The location-wise details in this regard are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Distance Education Council, a statutory body under the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985, which has been entrusted with the responsibility of promotion, coordination and maintenance of standards in open and distance learning system, makes concerted efforts with State Gvoernments for the establishment of State Open Universities. Tamil Nadu Open University has already been established in the year 2002 at Chennai and, is receiving development assistance from the Distance Education Council.

The curriculum of the various courses/programmes offered by each Open University is finalized by the respective universities, after getting necesssary approval by their statutory bodies, such as Academic Council, Board of Management etc.